

Reentry Committee Report – June 17, 2008

Accomplishments

Manual Subcommittee – The Manual Subcommittee was formed to address how to provide lists of services to both providers and recipients of reentry services in the community. The subcommittee recommended to the larger committee a format and color (blue) for the Offender Reentry Resource cards that was approved by the re-entry committee. The cards will have names and contact information for key services that would be needed by newly released persons and will be distributed to all inmates upon release. They will also be available for probation and parole officers and people in the community to use in an ongoing way. The first printing is scheduled for June 30, 2008 and will be for 5,000 cards. The cards will be updated and revised as necessary.

Certificate of Rehabilitation Committee (CoR) - The CoR subcommittee is working on developing a foundational structure for a certificate of rehabilitation program to increase access to employment, housing, services, education, etc. The subcommittee is reviewing Stark County's re-entry court which may be another model to be considered for immediate needs of ex-offenders.

Agenda 360 and Regional Collaborative for Workforce – A grant on behalf of The Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network and Better Together Cincinnati is being applied for from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions totaling \$111,000 the first year and \$450,000 over three years. These funds, along with local support, will be used to create a regional framework to transform historically decentralized business and educational training practices into a cogent system. The focus will be on the needs of both businesses and individual low-wage workers.

Focus Groups – A focus group of local employers will be convened on June 24th to hear their input on the challenge of hiring ex offenders and to hear how government can better prepare ex offenders to be employed. The focus will better inform the committee on how to assist ex-offenders in attaining gainful employment and how a Certificate of Rehabilitation can be used to enhance their ability to do so.

Work Currently Pending

Work will continue on finding a host for the website and planning the logistics for maintenance of the database to keep it current and accessible to all as well as developing the Certification of Rehabilitation.

Action Items for 2008

The committee will submit its findings regarding the Certificate of Rehabilitation and possibly the Re-Entry Court to the full CJC after research is complete related to recommendations on implementing a pilot program.